



CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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September 22, 2008

ADVISORY NOTICE

The City of Long Beach, Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS), Recreational Water Program is advising all public pool and spa owners and operators within the City of Long Beach of a new federal law regarding pool/spa drainage systems. On December 19, 2007, President Bush signed into law the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Safety Act of 2007. The legislation, 15 U.S.C. 8002 & 8003, Sections 1403 & 1404, requires all public pools and spas (i.e.- pools located in: apartment/condominium buildings, parks, schools, fitness centers, hotels/ motels, etc.) to reduce the potential of suction entrapment injuries and deaths from unsafe pool/spa drainage circulatory systems. The law takes effect on December 20, 2008.

The law requires that all public (commercial) pools and spas must be equipped with the following:

- 1.) Main drain covers that comply with the ANSI/ASME A112.19.8 testing standards, and;
- 2.) One of the following (A-E) on any pool or spa with a single main drain, other than an unblockable main drain:
 - A.) Safety Vacuum Release System conforming to ASME/ANSI standard A112.19.17 or ASTM standard F2387.
 - B.) Gravity Drainage System
 - C.) Suction-limiting Vent System
 - D.) Automatic Pump Shut-off System
 - E.) Drain Disablement

Although the law has not been formally adopted by the State of California, it will be enforced by the Long Beach DHHS Recreational Water Program as a required construction standard on all new or remodeled swimming pools and spas. Owners of existing commercial swimming pools and spas are strongly recommended to retrofit existing drain covers to comply with this new law. Any renovations made to a public swimming pool or spa must be approved by the Recreational Water Program prior to construction. The Recreational Water Program will continue to track this issue and will update you with any significant developments. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Recreational Water Program Supervisor, Steven Nakauchi at (562) 570-4134.

Best regards,

Jeff Benedict, M.P.A., R.E.H.S.
Manager, Bureau of Environmental Health